What is claimed is:

An apparatus, comprising:

a shaft and

a retention structure, wherein the retention structure is configured as a closed loop non-concentrically disposed about a longitudinal axis of the shaft.

- 2. An apparatus, as in Claim 1, further comprising a tumen configured to receive a stylet, wherein the lumen is coextensive with the shaft and substantially coextensive with the retention structure.
- 3. An apparatus, as in Claim 1, further comprising a hydrogel coating disposed on an outer surface of the catheter.
- An apparatus, as in Claim 1, wherein the shaft includes an orientation marking at a proximal end of the shaft.
- 5. An apparatus, as in Claim 1, wherein a proximal end of the shaft includes a beveled edge.
- An apparatus, as in Claim 1, wherein the retention structure further includes a 6. protuberance projecting from the retention structure.

13



15

20

5

7. An apparatus, as in Claim 6, wherein the protuberance projects from a midpoint of the closed loop.

An apparatus, as in Claim 6, further comprising a lumen coextensive with the shaft and protuberance configured to receive a stylet.

An apparatus, as in Claim 8, wherein the lumen extends through a distal end of the protuberance.

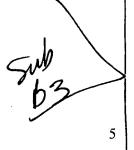
10 10. An apparatus, as in Claim 8, wherein the lumen extends to a point proximal to a distal end of the protuberance.

An apparatus, as in Claim 6, wherein a segment of the retention structure defines a cavity to receive a portion of the retention structure.

15

20

10



12. A method treating incontinence, comprising:

providing an apparatus including a shaft and a retention structure, wherein the retention structure is configured as a closed loop non-concentrically disposed about a longitudinal axis of the shaft;

rendering the retention structure substantially rectilinear;

inserting the rectilinear retention structure through a urethra into a bladder;

reforming the retention structure into a closed loop non-concentrically disposed about a longitudinal axis of the shaft; and

positioning the retention structure adjacent the neck of the bladder with the non-concentrically disposed retention structure in a predetermined orientation

The method, as in Claim 12, wherein the apparatus further comprises a lumen configured to receive a stylet, wherein the lumen is coextensive with the shaft and substantially coextensive with the retention structure.

pro ?

14. The method, as in Claim 12, further comprising providing a stylet and wherein the stylet is inserted into the lumen in the apparatus to render the retention structure substantially rectilinear.

